

there are no indications, despite her domestic and professional efficiency, that she was one whit more worldly-minded than her husband. In some respects, certainly, she was well ahead of her times and her circumstances. Not only did she give the children plain, good food she insisted on cold baths and open windows, at a time when such things were commonly thought to be dangerous. Moreover, the boys—it was too early to expect equal treatment for a girl—were sent abroad, to learn languages. Both Charles and Sidney were thus despatched to Switzerland, to acquire French and, later, to the house of a pastor at Wisnar, in Mecklenburg-Schwenn, for Geiman. On the way to Germany, Sidney, as a boy, was wrecked in the Baltic. Charles, on the strength of his languages, became a foreign correspondence clerk in a London house, Sidney was to use the instrument formerly used in London, inevitably, coloured and largely constituted the boy's education.

"After a few lessons at my mother's knee, which I do not remember, I had taught myself to read at an early age, very early, from the books and notices displayed in the shop windows, a source of endless interest. It used to take me a full hour to get the whole length of Fleet Street, so absorbing were the pages of the periodicals there exposed to view. I found more instruction in the reputedly and pages of Kelly's London Directory, then a ponderous tome, than in any other single volume to which my childhood had access. It was from the steps of St Martin's Church that, as a very little boy, I saw my first Lord Mayo. A Show I remember my mother telling me on that

occasion—and
it seems to have sunk in—that if I was a good boy, I
might one day be Lord Mayor¹ In short, I grew up a
patriotic Londoner, very early declaring that no place on earth
(I knew nothing about any other place) would content me
for habitation,
other than the very middle of London that I knew

It was through his observant eyes, and
through books,
that most of his education came to him
With his hands,

¹ *Reminiscences* by S and B Webb 6* *Martin's Review*,
December, 1928